

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
  - receiving a network communication including an asset having ~~a pixel image~~ data and ~~non-pixel patient~~ data;
  - storing the asset and validating the ~~non-pixel patient~~ data in parallel, wherein validating the ~~non-pixel patient~~ data includes issuing a reconciliation event when the ~~non-pixel patient~~ data is invalid or ~~missing incomplete~~;
  - ~~requesting the invalid or incomplete patient data to reconcile the patient data during the reconciliation event~~; and
  - forwarding the storage asset upon ~~validating reconciling~~ the ~~non-pixel patient~~ data.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a network communication comprises:
  - storing the asset in a ringtail buffer while receiving the network communication; and
  - instantiating a validation software module and a storage manager software module, wherein the validation software module and the storage manager receive the asset from the ringtail buffer in parallel.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - receiving the network communication with multiple software modules; and
  - storing the asset and validating the ~~non-pixel patient~~ data with different software modules.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-pixel patient data comprises medical data and the pixel image data comprises medical images.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the medical asset data comprises patient information, session information and study information
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein validating the non-pixel patient data comprises syntactically and semantically validating a number of DICOM tags within the non-pixel patient data.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the pixel image data comprises buffering the storage asset to a local storage medium.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein forwarding the network communication upon validating the asset comprises initiating and outbound network communication prior to receiving all of the pixel image data.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the network communication comprises receiving a number of packets from a network, and where storing the pixel image data and validating the non-pixel patient data commences after receiving a first portion of the packets.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein forwarding the network communication comprises forwarding the network communication to a plurality of storage systems in parallel.
12. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving a number of packets with multiple software modules listening to a single communication socket of a TCP/IP-based network, wherein the packets contain a storage asset having a pixel image data and non-pixel patient data;

selectively process the non-pixel patient data and the pixel image data with separate software modules to store the asset and validate the non-pixel patient data in parallel as the packets are received;

issuing a reconciliation event when non-pixel patient data is invalid or incomplete missing;

requesting the invalid or missing incomplete non-pixel patient data to reconcile the non-pixel patient data; and

forwarding the storage asset to a network destination upon validating the non-pixel patient data and prior to receiving all of the pixel image data.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the non-pixel patient data comprises medical data and the pixel image data comprises medical images

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the medical asset data comprises patient information, session information and study information

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein validating the non-pixel patient data comprises semantically and syntactically validating a number of DICOM tags within the non-pixel patient data.

16. (Currently Amended) A router comprising:

a computer-readable medium storing routing information mapping destinations to routes within a network; and

a storage manager software module that receives a network communication including an asset having a pixel image data and non-pixel patient data, and stores the asset to a storage device;

a validation software module that validates the non-pixel patient data in parallel with the storage of the asset, wherein the validation software module issues a reconciliation even when the non-pixel patient data is invalid or missing incomplete to reconcile the invalid or missing incomplete data; and

a routing module that forwards the storage asset to a network destination in accordance with the routing information upon the validation of the non-pixel patient data.

17. (Original) The router of claim 16 further including a computer-readable medium buffering the network communication in a ringtail buffer, wherein the storage manager software module and the validation software module read the network communication from the ringtail buffer.

18. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 16, wherein the non-pixel patient data comprises medical data and the pixel image data comprises medical images.

19. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 18, wherein the medical asset data comprises patient information, session information and study information.

20 (Currently Amended) The router of claim 18, wherein the validation software module syntactically and semantically validates a number of DICOM tags within the non-pixel patient data.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The router of claim 16, wherein the routing module forwards the network communication to a plurality of storage systems in parallel.

23. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
storing routing information mapping destinations to routes within a network;  
receiving a network communication comprising destination information and a storage asset having image data and patient data;  
validating the image data and patient data of the storage asset;  
storing a plurality of outbound network communications in a plurality of queues, wherein the outbound network communications include references to the storage asset;

selecting a plurality of routes from the routing information; and  
forwarding the network communications according to the selected routes in parallel.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein selecting a plurality of routes comprises selecting routes to a plurality of archive systems.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:  
storing a set of routing rules;  
comparing at least a portion of the data to the set of routing rules; and  
selecting a plurality of routes from the routing information based on the destination information and a result of the comparison.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the network comprises a medical imaging network and the network communication complies with the DICOM protocol, and further wherein storing routing information comprises storing routing information mapping Application Entity Names (AENames) to routes within the medical imaging network.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein selecting a plurality of routes from the routing information comprises comparing an AENAME defined within the network communication to the AENAME defined within the routing information.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the network communication complies with the DICOM protocol, and further wherein comparing at least a portion of the medical asset data comprises:  
parsing the medical asset data to identify a set of DICOM tags and corresponding data; and  
assessing a routing rule from the set of routing rules based on the DICOM tags and corresponding data.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein storing a set of routing rules comprises storing an XML-based set of rules, wherein the rules conform to a user-defined grammar for routing the medical asset data.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising presenting an interface for receiving user input that defines the user-defined grammar.